



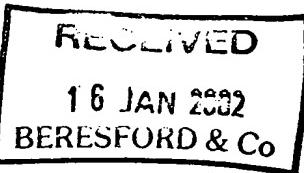
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Your Reference: 27 and 59-63 when appendant thereto  
Application No: GB 0116363.3

14 January 2002

The Patent Office  
Patents Directorate

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Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)**

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citations.

**Plurality of invention**

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention as follows:

- (i) a method of manufacturing a dosage form characterised by the use of a solution of a polymer containing a suspension of particulate material (claims 1-27 and 59-63 when appendant thereto);
- (ii) a method of manufacturing a dosage form characterised by forming a region of active ingredient on a first fibre layer and then forming second fibre layer on the active ingredient region (claims 28-37 and 59-63 when appendant thereto);
- (iii) a method of manufacturing a dosage form characterised by causing a solution of a polymer to issue from an outlet to form a cone and jet and controlling solvent evaporation in the region of the cone (claims 38-48 and 59-63 when appendant thereto);
- (iv) a method of manufacturing a dosage form characterised by incorporating an effervescent material (claims 49-53 and 59-63 when appendant thereto);
- (v) a method of manufacturing a dosage form characterised by the use of a solution of a polymer containing a suspension of particulate active material and forming polymer droplets containing particles of the active material, the polymer being insoluble or not very soluble in a wet environment (claims 54-58 and 59-63 when appendant thereto);
- (vi) a dosage form comprising a three dimensional network of polymer fibre containing particles of a particulate material (claim 64 and 66-70 when appendant thereto);

<sup>†</sup>Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only

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Due: 24 / 1 / 02



14 January 2002

(vii) a dosage form comprising a region comprising an active ingredient and/or an effervescent encapsulated within a casing formed of a three dimensional fibre mat or web formed by a polymer (claim 65 and 66-70 when appendant thereto).

WO 00/67694 A1, which has been cited as a category A citation in the accompanying report, indicates that the common subject matter of inventions (i)-(v), namely forming fibres of biologically compatible polymer by spraying a solution of the polymer across an electrical field as a method of manufacturing a dosage form, is known.

My search report relates to the first invention only. If you want any of the other inventions searched, you should file a separate Patents Form 9/77 for each invention.

#### Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 13 August 2002. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

#### Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: "**URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT**".

Yours faithfully

Dr Annabel Ovens  
Examiner



Application No: GB 0116363.3 Examiner: Dr Annabel Ovens  
Claims searched: 1-27 and 59-63 when Date of search: 11 January 2002  
appendant thereto

**Patents Act 1977**  
**Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.T): A5B (BLL, BLK, BLJ, BNC)

Int Cl (Ed.7): A61J 3/00, 3/06; A61K 9/70

Other: Online: PAJ, EPODOC, WPI

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	WO 00/67694 A1 (ELECTROSOLS)	
X	WO 98/03267 A1 (ELECTROSOLS) see page 3 lines 3-16, page 4 lines 17-26, page 5 lines 8-10, page 22 line 24-page 23 line 17 and page 30 lines 3-14	1 at least
A	US 4043331 (MARTIN AND COCKSHOTT)	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.